

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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- (21) Application No. 38534/68 (22) Filed 12 Aug. 1968
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(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN ROOF SOFFIT FITTINGS

(71) We, THE MARLEY TILE COMPANY LIMITED, a British Company, of Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent, do hereby declare in writing that a

panels of stiff sheet material adapted to close the gap between a separate fascia attached to the end of said structural members and the building wall face, said brackets and

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ERRATUM

SPECIFICATION NO 1269357

Page 3, line 39, for DEAN read DEHN

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up into the roof between the roof timbers. The fascia then serves as a mounting for rainwater goods and in particular the gutter.
20 In the specification of our British Patent No. 1,073,533 there is disclosed a gutter mounting system which has the advantage that roof tilers do not have to wait to commence work on the roof until the completion
25 of the fitting of the fascia and soffit system as previously had often been necessary. The present invention is similar to that of our abovementioned earlier specification in that it aims at enabling the fitting of rainwater
30 goods, e.g. guttering and support brackets therefor, and eaves and/or verge soffit after the tilers work is completed and by a single group of craftsmen.

35 The soffit fitting according to this invention is especially well suited for use with the gutter mounting system illustrated in and described with reference to Figures 4, 5 and 6 of the drawings accompanying the specification of our abovementioned British Patent
40 No. 1,073,533, although it is not exclusively adapted for use therewith and can be used with other gutter mountings.

45 According to this invention there is provided a soffit fitting system for the eaves and/or verges of a building including a number of support brackets adapted to be secured to roof structural members projecting beyond the building wall faces, and soffit

a plate cut or stamped from sheet material or injection moulded in polyvinylchloride which can be secured to the side of a rafter with screws or nails. Such a bracket preferably has a substantially straight lower edge against which the soffit is positioned and a front edge which abuts the rear of the fascia. Reinforcement ribs and/or flanges may be provided as desired.

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For clipping the soffit panels to the brackets the brackets may, for example, be provided with waisted plugs adapted to make a snap fit in corresponding apertures or sockets in the panels. Preferably however the panels are provided with laterally-spaced longitudinal ribs which are shaped to make snap-in engagement with complementarily shaped cut-outs or sockets along the lower edge of the bracket plates; for example with brackets and panels of P.V.C. the panel ribs may be generally dove-tailed in cross-section and adapted for engagement in similarly shaped cut-outs in the brackets. In one preferred arrangement the panels are of extruded P.V.C. and the panel ribs are each constituted by a semi-tubular fold in the panel, the brackets being provided with corresponding arcuate cut-outs or sockets adapted to receive the panel ribs.

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For obtaining a weather-proof joint between two adjacent soffit panels it is pre-

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(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN ROOF SOFFIT FITTINGS

(71) We, THE MARLEY TILE COMPANY LIMITED, a British Company, of Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to a soffit fitting for the eaves and/or verges of a building.

In house where, for example, the roof timbers project beyond the faces of the walls to form eaves and/or verges it is conventional to attach a timber fascia to the ends of the roof timbers and to secure a soffit to the lower edge of the fascia to block entry up into the roof between the roof timbers. The fascia then serves as a mounting for rainwater goods and in particular the gutter.

In the specification of our British Patent No. 1,073,533 there is disclosed a gutter mounting system which has the advantage that roof tilers do not have to wait to commence work on the roof until the completion of the fitting of the fascia and soffit system as previously had often been necessary. The present invention is similar to that of our abovementioned earlier specification in that it aims at enabling the fitting of rainwater goods, e.g. guttering and support brackets therefor, and eaves and/or verge soffit after the tilers work is completed and by a single group of craftsmen.

The soffit fitting according to this invention is especially well suited for use with the gutter mounting system illustrated in and described with reference to Figures 4, 5 and 6 of the drawings accompanying the specification of our abovementioned British Patent No. 1,073,533, although it is not exclusively adapted for use therewith and can be used with other gutter mountings.

According to this invention there is provided a soffit fitting system for the eaves and/or verges of a building including a number of support brackets adapted to be secured to roof structural members projecting beyond the building wall faces, and soffit

panels of stiff sheet material adapted to close the gap between a separate fascia attached to the end of said structural members and the building wall face, said brackets and panels being provided with complementarily shaped means whereby the panels are adapted to be clipped on to the brackets and retained by the resilience of the panel and/or the bracket means.

The soffit panels could be made of a non-corrosive material such as plastics, e.g. polyvinylchloride, or aluminium alloy or synthetic resin impregnated fibreglass, or could be pre-painted metal or metal coated with plastics. The brackets likewise may be of any suitable non-corrosive material.

The bracket is conveniently in the form of a plate cut or stamped from sheet metal or injection moulded in polyvinylchloride which can be secured to the side of a rafter with screws or nails. Such a bracket preferably has a substantially straight lower edge against which the soffit is positioned and a front edge which abuts the rear of the fascia. Reinforcement ribs and/or flanges may be provided as desired.

For clipping the soffit panels to the brackets the brackets may, for example, be provided with waisted plugs adapted to make a snap fit in corresponding apertures or sockets in the panels. Preferably however the panels are provided with laterally-spaced longitudinal ribs which are shaped to make snap-in engagement with complementarily shaped cut-outs or sockets along the lower edge of the bracket plates; for example with brackets and panels of P.V.C. the panel ribs may be generally dove-tailed in cross-section and adapted for engagement in similarly shaped cut-outs in the brackets. In one preferred arrangement the panels are of extruded P.V.C. and the panel ribs are each constituted by a semi-tubular fold in the panel, the brackets being provided with corresponding arcuate cut-outs or sockets adapted to receive the panel ribs.

For obtaining a weather-proof joint between two adjacent soffit panels it is pre-

SEE ERRATA SLIP ATTACHED

ferred specially to adapt one of the support brackets for use as a union bracket: thus for example where the bracket is in the form of a plate having a straight lower edge against which in use the soffit is positioned it is convenient to provide flanges extending on either side of the lower edge of the bracket and shaped to correspond closely to the lower edge of the bracket for engagement with the soffit panels. The flanges of the support bracket in this way provide a weather-proofing backing to the joint between two adjacent panels. The support bracket adapted in this manner also permits expansion and contraction of soffit panels with temperature variation.

In order that this invention might be understood more clearly a soffit fitting in accordance therewith will now be described by way of example only with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:—

Fig. 1 is a cross-sectional view of a soffit panel;

Fig. 2 is a side elevational view of a support bracket shown in end elevation in Fig. 2A and in underneath plan view in Fig. 2B;

Fig. 3 is a side elevational view of a support bracket adapted to serve as a union bracket, with Fig. 3A showing an end elevational view and Fig. 3B showing a top-plan view; and

Fig. 4 is a cross-sectional view showing the soffit fitting according to this invention in use with the gutter mounting illustrated in Fig. 4 of the drawings accompanying our British Patent Specification No. 1,073,533.

Fig. 1 shows a soffit panel 1 formed of P.V.C. by extrusion having substantially tubular integrally formed ribs 2. One edge of the panel is bent upwardly to form a lip 3 which in use of the panel as illustrated in Fig. 4 cooperates with the gutter mounting as described more fully hereafter.

The support bracket 4 shown in Figs. 2, 2A and 2B is made of P.V.C. by injection moulding. Holes 5 for nails or screws and cut-away portions 6 for reasons of economy are provided. The generally straight lower edge 7 of the bracket 4 is provided with circular cut-outs 8 extending right through the bracket and adapted to make snap-in engagement with the ribs 2 of soffit panel 1, and is reinforced by means of an integrally formed flange 9 shown clearly in Fig. 2A, which flange 9 follows the shape of the lower edge 7 of the panel.

The union bracket shown in Figs. 3, 3A and 3B is similar to that shown in Figs. 2, 2A and 2B except that the flange 9 is enlarged so as to define sockets 10 on each side of the bracket into which the ends of two soffit panels are fitted in use. It will be clear that the union bracket of Figs. 3, 3A and 3B in use can effectively serve to join two soffit panels so as to prevent ingress of

weather between their adjacent ends whilst also permitting thermal expansion or contraction.

Fig. 4 illustrates the use of the soffit fitting according to this invention in conjunction with a gutter mounting as disclosed in the specification of British Patent No. 1,073,533. For a full description of the gutter mounting reference may be made to the above Patent specification and no particular description thereof will be made herein, nor will any description be given of the fitting of the gutter mounting to the fascia board. For fitting the soffit, support brackets are secured by nailing or screwing to the rafter ends 11 and the soffit panels can then be clipped to the brackets, the ribs 2 of the soffit panels 1 being received into the cut-outs 8 of the brackets 4 and retained by the resilience both of the panels and of the brackets. In fitting the soffit panels the panel lip 3 is inserted between the gutter mounting and the fascia as shown in Fig. 4.

To lock the soffit panels 1 firmly in position rods of suitably sized circular section may be inserted into the substantially tubular ribs 2 of the panels 1 especially where they enter the cut-outs in the brackets.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A soffit fitting system for the eaves and/or verges of a building including a number of support brackets adapted to be secured to roof structural members projecting beyond the building wall faces, and soffit panels of stiff sheet material adapted to close the gap between a separate fascia attached to the end of said structural members and the building wall face, said brackets and panels being provided with complementarily shaped means whereby the panels are adapted to be clipped on to the brackets and retained by the resilience of the panel and/or the bracket means.

2. A soffit fitting system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said brackets are in the form of plates of stiff sheet material.

3. A soffit fitting system as claimed in claim 2 wherein the support brackets are each in the form of a plate having a substantially straight lower edge against which the soffit panel is positioned in use and a front edge which abuts the rear of the fascia in use.

4. A soffit fitting system as claimed in claim 3 wherein the support brackets are provided with reinforcement ribs and/or flanges.

5. A soffit fitting system as claimed in claim 3 or 4 wherein for clipping the panels on to the brackets the panels are provided with laterally-spaced longitudinal ribs so shaped as to make snap-in engagement with complementarily shaped cut-outs or sockets along the lower edge of the bracket plates.

6. A soffit fitting system as claimed in claim 5 wherein said laterally spaced longitudinal ribs on the soffit panels are each constituted by a semi-tubular fold in the panel, the cut-outs or sockets in the brackets being correspondingly arcuate for receiving the panel ribs.
7. A soffit fitting system as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein some of the brackets are adapted for use as union brackets for obtaining a weather-proof joint between two adjacent soffit panels.
8. A soffit fitting system as claimed in claim 7 as dependent upon claim 3 wherein the support brackets adapted for use as union brackets are provided with flanges extending on either side of the lower edge of the bracket, such flanges being shaped to correspond closely to the lower edge of the bracket for engagement with the soffit panels.
9. A soffit fitting system as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the support brackets and soffit panels are made of a plastics material.
10. A soffit fitting system substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
11. In the eaves and/or verges of a building, a soffit fitting system as claimed in any of the preceding claims.
12. In the eaves and/or verges of a building, a soffit fitting system substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings with the soffit panels locked firmly in position by means of rods of suitable section inserted into the tubular ribs of the soffit panels.

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